(e) No proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Culture to change the Recruitment Rules of these posts.

Statement

The officers holding additional charge of National Museum and National Gallery of Modern Art

NATIONAL MUSEUM

1. Shri S.K. Mahapatra, Secretary (Culture) hold additional charge DG, National Museum from 22.8.90 to 8.1.91
2. Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Joint Secretary (Culture) hold additional charge of DG, National Museum from 1.8.94 to 15.4.96
3. Dr. Kasturi Gupta Menon, Joint Secretary (Culture) hold additional charge of DG, National Museum from 1.12.1997 to 21.12.98
4. Dr. K.K. Chakravarty, Member Secretary, IGNCA hold additional charge of DG, National Museum from 30.4.2004 to 15.1.2006

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART

1. Smt. Anjali Sen, Director (Culture) holds the additional charge of Director, NGMA from 1994—2000
2. Smt. Mukta Nidhi Samnotra, Under Secretary (Culture) hold the temporary charge of Director, NGMA from April to December, 2000
3. Shri K.N. Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Culture) hold the additional charge of Director, NGMA from January to March, 2001

Declaration of ASI as Scientific and Technical Department

95. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY. J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the notification declaring the Archaeological Survey of India a Scientific and Technical Department issued by Government;

(b) what are the financial and administrative implications of declaring a Department as Scientific and Technical;

(c) whether the benefit and privileges of a Scientific and Technical Department have been fully extended to the Archaeological Survey of India, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the Archaeological Survey of India is likely to get all the benefits and privileges of a Scientific and Technical Department?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Department of Science and Technology has approved the Archaeological Survey of India as a Science & Technological Institution w.e.f. 1st May 1989 *vide* Notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture dated 27.10.1989.

The financial and administrative implications of declaring a Department as scientific and technical and their present status in the ASI are as follows:

(i) Financial powers of Ministries/Departments can be delegated to Head of Science & Technology Institution.

Ministry of Culture has issued order revising financial powers of Director General, ASI.

(ii) Secretary of administrative Ministry can chair EFC for projects of Science & Technology Departments irrespective of outlay.

(iii) Science & Technology Institutions are exempted from purview of DGS&D for purchase of store subject to the condition that these institutions should have evolved alternative procedure.

After issue of new GFR 2005—procedure for purchase has been simplified and no separate purchase procedure for ASI is therefore necessary.

(iv) S&T institutions with substantial civil work can have Civil Engineering wing of their own.

ASI already has a Conservation Branch consisting of Civil Engineers.

(v) Recruitment to scientific and technical posts in S&T Departments can be exempted from the purview of UPSC.

This is not implemented in the ASI. UPSC/Department of Personnel & Training has not agreed to this.

(vi) Head of Department of S&T Department shall have powers to sanction deputation abroad/international travel to scientists working under their control.

No officer of the ASI has been designated as Scientist.

(vii) The officers of Science and Technology Department are entitled to the Flexible Complementing Scheme.

The grant of Flexible Complementing Scheme to the eligible officers of ASI is being pursued with the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Personnel.

Observance of India-China Friendship Year

96. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any special plan to observe this year in a befitting way, to strengthen the age-old friendship as this year is being observed as India-China friendship year;

(b) what kind of cultural exchanges are going to take place; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A series of commemorative activities have been mutually agreed upon between the two sides, which will span over the entire year, involving high-level visits and activities related with cultural, economic, tourism, educational and defence exchanges.

Some of the main cultural exchanges related to visit of cultural delegations, classical dance troupes etc. and organization of academic seminar, exhibition etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Historical discoveries in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

97. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Buddhist Chaityas and Monastery, a three dimensional structure, broken images, pillars and pottery from the first and second century AD have been found in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh;